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UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

20 February 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

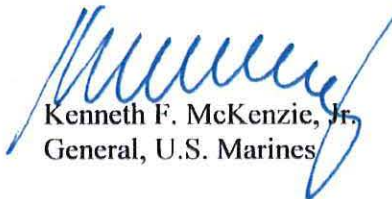
Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the opportunity to address Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 unfunded priorities required by Section 222a of Title 10 United States Code and most recently Section 1005 of the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

In reviewing the FY 2021 President's Budget request, I believe the Department of Defense and the Services can meet United States Central Command's most critical operational resourcing requirements. However, there are some requirements that, with additional funding, will enhance force protection of U.S. forces, accelerate the procurement of key systems, and reassure our partners as missions and posture evolves. I respectfully request you consider providing \$371.8 million in additional funds for programs that increase our intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capacity, support countering unmanned aerial systems threats, provide for base defense and resiliency, and conduct inform and influence activities against malign state actors and their proxies. Requirements in the enclosed list improve our ability to support the National Defense Strategy, promote regional security, enhance the global economy, and reinforce freedom of navigation in the Middle East.

Sustained and uninterrupted funding remains key to address the challenges and build on the opportunities present in the Central Region. As always, I remain grateful for your strong support of our service members, civilians, and families, and look forward to our future discussions on a number of important topics.

Sincerely,



Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr.  
General, U.S. Marines

Enclosure:  
USCENTCOM FY21 Unfunded Priorities List

Copy to:  
The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry  
Ranking Member

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USCENTCOM FY 2021 Unfunded Priority List (UPL)

1. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance:

Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities are key to protecting U.S. and coalition forces and provide decision makers with much needed decision space. Persistent and seamless coverage is critical to identifying subtle, pattern of life changes that can provide lifesaving tactical indications and warning and prevent strategic miscalculation. Adding to existing Department of Defense ISR platforms expands area coverage and loiter times. Based on past experience and temporary nature of this requirement, a leased solution is considered most cost effective. With additional funding, USCENTCOM would seek platforms from which to employ Gorgon Stare Wide Area Mapping Imagery sensors.

As force drawdowns reduce human intelligence availability, signal intelligence capabilities become even more important. Deterrence in the Central Region depends on USCENTCOM's ability to characterize the state of force, readiness, intent, and ability to sense and highlight malign activity through the use of airborne ISR.

| Priority | USCENTCOM FY21 Unfunded Priorities<br>Budget Line Item Number (LIN) | Sub-Activity<br>Group (SAG) | Program<br>Element (PE)<br>Number | Amount (\$M) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1        | MQ-9 UAV  | 011C<br>(AF O&M)            | 0205219F                          | \$238.0      |

2. Counter-UAS:

Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) capabilities funds are required to support an increased demand. Enemy UAS assets have expanded in size, sophistication, range, lethality and numbers and are emplaced and employed throughout USCENTCOM's Area of Responsibility. These systems' low velocity and altitude makes them difficult to detect on radar and limited options exist in effectively defeating them. Programs like Air Vigilance, Modular C-UAS Airborne Platform Systems (MCAPS), land-based phalanx weapon system (LPWS), and future Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) (Block I and II) would help counter these airborne IEDs and intelligence gatherers. USCENTCOM requests funds to sustain and/or accelerate procuring these and other C-UAS related systems within a single command and control network that provide effective electronic and kinetic options for C-UAS purposes.

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|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 2        | Indirect Fire Protection Family of Systems<br>0173BZ0501            | (Army/OPA)                  | -                                 | \$67.6       |

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**3. Base Defense and Resiliency:**

Force Protection (FP) of our forward bases remains a top priority to ensure the safety of our deployed personnel and coalition. Based on select USCENTCOM CONPLAN requirements and emerging threats, additional FP equipment has been in extremely high demand throughout the AOR. Many existing operating locations require additional equipment to accommodate theater force re-posturing in response to Iranian aggression and counter-ISIS campaigns.

To meet this demand, USCENTCOM needs mission essential, commercial off the shelf (COTS) equipment to protect against ground attacks, small-unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), and terrorist networks in high threat environments. This equipment provides Security Forces with critical explosive detection capabilities, ballistic gatehouses and towers, anti-vehicle barriers, portable small arms armories, and intrusion detection capabilities. Based on long lead times for various items, COTS procurement takes approximately nine months from purchase to delivery.

Emerging demand signals have depleted FP equipment stockpiles and surpassed incremental funding capability. An infusion of FY 2021 funding will help alleviate equipment shortfalls that support future contingency operations.

Funding is also needed to continue developing Duqm, Oman as the only fully capable and scalable logistics hub, outside the Arabian Gulf, that provides Defense Logistics Agency, Subsistence Prime Vendor support, Combat Logistics Force replenishment, and distribution for all classes of supply. Funds will go to support waterfront operations, warehouse, boat maintenance, and ordnance facilities and activities for all three Service Components.

As an established site on the Enduring Location Master List, further development ensures Duqm supports a more efficient, flexible, and resilient USCENTCOM posture with dispersed aerial- and sea- port of debarkation capabilities that mitigate movement constraints through strategic maritime chokepoints.

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|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 3        | Base Defense OPLAN<br>Equipment                                     | 011Z<br>(AF O&M)            | 0208539F                          | \$24.2       |
|          | Operational HQ – Fleet (Combat<br>Support Forces)                   | 1C6C<br>(USN O&M)           | 0204651N                          | \$21.0       |

**4. Military Information Support Operations (MISO):**

Military Information Support Operations (MISO) funding is critical to ensuring we compete and counter the information campaign. Currently USCENTCOM and key partners conduct unilateral inform and influence activities against malign state actors and their proxies. Building capacity is important to compete in the information environment. Continued engagement, cooperation, and subject matter exchanges create the foundation on which to build more robust partnerships and

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increased commitment towards achieving USCENTCOM military objectives and promote the U.S. as the preferred partner for security and stability in the region.

Recent permissions provide the CENTCOM Commander with greater ability to conduct MISO activities inside the territorial limits of state actors. Additional funding is required to scale existing MISO programs to new target audiences and to counter state actor malign information in the region.

This funding expands USCENTCOM's pool of native language speakers with appropriate clearances. The added expertise and capacity will ensure all languages are accounted for, twenty-four hour/seven day support, and surge capacity for crisis.

| <b>Priority</b> | <b>USCENTCOM FY21 Unfunded Priorities<br/>Budget Line Item Number (LIN)</b> | <b>Sub-Activity<br/>Group (SAG)</b> | <b>Program<br/>Element (PE)<br/>Number</b> | <b>Amount (\$M)</b> |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 4               | GCC Voice MISO Program –<br>USCENTCOM                                       | 015F<br>(AF O&M)                    | 0208150F                                   | \$21.0              |

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